UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Springfield, Illinois
November 29, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY

On November 26, 1968, Mr. JOHN L. WEST, Salesman, Bundy Oldsmobile, Inc., 8th and Illinois, East St. Louis, Illinois, advised that records of his company indicate that JOHN L. RAYNS, 507 Chestnut, Post Office Box 293, Winnetka, Illinois, purchased a 1962 Plymouth, four-door, Sedan, VIN 2921165934, on July 14, 1967, as per invoice #6852. Mr. WEST advised that this invoice indicates that the price of the above car was $200. In addition, there was sales tax in the amount of $9.50 and a notary fee in the amount of 50 cents, bringing total price of the automobile to $210. Mr. WEST further advised that his records indicate that RAYNS made a cash deposit of $20, as per receipt #38466 dated July 14, 1967, and apparently returned shortly thereafter with the balance of $190, as the records indicate receipt #38469 dated July 14, 1967, indicate RAYNS paid this amount. WEST pointed out that although he could not be specific as to the time element involved between the period of time that the $20 cash deposit was paid and the balance of $190 was paid, it was apparently only a metter of a few minutes to an hour, since there were only two receipts issued between deposit receipt and balance receipt given to RAYNS.

Mr. WEST pointed out that there was no trade-in involved in the transaction. He also advised his file on RAYNS indicates Illinois sales tax form #1978804, which was dated July 14, 1967, was completed on that date and this along with the license information was mailed to the Secretary of State's Office, Springfield, Illinois, on July 31, 1967. Mr. WEST stated that from his records he had to assume RAYNS transferred his license from a previously owned automobile to the 1962 Plymouth, inasmuch as he was able to find a receipt #463, in the amount of $3.00, which is the fee normally paid for transfer of title. Mr. WEST stated if an individual purchases an automobile and applies for a new license, he would be charged a minimum of $7.00.

Mr. WEST advised he recalled that the 1962 Plymouth was taken into Bundy Oldsmobile as the trade-in from an unrecalled Negro male who had purchased a new Cutlass, about a month prior to the transaction with RAYNS. WEST stated that the salesman who sold the car to RAYNS was GOBEL BIGGS.

Mr. WEST stated he could not specifically recall the sale of the automobile to RAYNS. He stated photographs of JAMES EARL RAY were unfamiliar to him. He likewise showed photograph to other sales personnel at Bundy Oldsmobile and they, too, stated that they could not recall RAY as ever having been in Bundy Oldsmobile. WEST did point out, however, that his business is primarily the sale of new cars and used cars of a higher quality than the automobile sold to RAYNS. Therefore, the transaction was somewhat insignificant and he was unable to recall any further specific details and was only able to furnish the above information as direct result of review of the receipts, invoices and orders set forth above.

Mr. GOBEL BIGGS, Salesman, Bundy Oldsmobile, Inc., East St. Louis, Illinois, after reviewing the invoice orders and other receipts pertaining to the sale of 1962 Plymouth, four-door, Sedan, VIN 2921165934, which he sold to JOHN L. RAYNS, 507 Chestnut, Post Office Box 293, Winnetka, Illinois, stated he could not recall this individual or anything of the transaction. Mr. BIGGS advised the transaction was rather insignificant and it involved the sale of a "junker" with $200, and he could have possibly remembered more about the man had he sold the individual a new car or a used car in better condition. Mr. BIGGS did state, however, that he still has in his possession a "follow-up information card" for JOHN L. RAYNS with the address of 507 Chestnut, Post Office Box 293, Winnetka, Illinois, and he indicates on this card that RAYNS purchased a 1962 Plymouth on July 14, 1967. Mr. BIGGS stated it is the policy at Bundy Oldsmobile for all salesmen to send new car literature to individuals to whom they have sold automobiles in the past; and, based on this information card, he is relatively certain that he has sent such literature to RAYNS at the above address on at least seven or eight occasions, since the initial purchase of the 1962 Plymouth. He stated he has no way of knowing whether this literature was received by RAYNS at this address or whether it was returned by the Post Office. He stated if such literature would have been returned by the Post Office to Bundy Oldsmobile, it would have just been destroyed; therefore, he would have no way of knowing

whether or not it was actually received. BIGGS, upon viewing photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, stated he could not associate this individual with being identical with RAYNS and was unable to furnish any other details as to the transaction, including the manner of payment, although he was certain from the invoice and receipts that this automobile was paid for in cash.

[redacted], Auto Registration Section, Secretary of State's Office, Springfield, Illinois, advised on November 27, 1968, that a check of records reflect that 1967 Illinois license LM-5942 was issued June 5, 1967, to JOHN LARRY RAYNS, 507 Chestnut, Box 293, Winnetka, Illinois, for a 1959 Chrysler, two-door, VIN M531108240, which was purchased used June 5, 1967, from GEORGE SEYMOUR HELLER, [redacted] Chicago, Illinois. Certificate of Title #B1173475 issued June 6, 1967, to RAYNS for this vehicle with no lien. On August 8, 1967, above-mentioned 1967 Illinois license transferred to RAYNS for a 1962 Plymouth, four-door, VIN 2921165934, which was purchased used July 14, 1967, from Bundy Oldsmobile, Inc., 711 Illinois Avenue, East St. Louis, Illinois. The application for this transfer reflects that above-mentioned 1959 Chrysler to be sold later. Certificate of Title #B1604563 issued August 8, 1967, to RAYNS for instant Plymouth with no lien.

[redacted] also advised that 1967 Illinois license RT-5302 was issued 8/28/67 to JERRY W. RYAN, [redacted] Northbrook, Illinois, for instant Plymouth, purchased used August 25, 1967, from JOHN L. RAYNS, 507 Chestnut, Winnetka, Illinois. Certificate of Title #B1777474 issued September 7, 1967, to RYAN for this Plymouth with no lien.

Mr. TABOR also advised that 1967 Illinois license SC-7905 was issued October 25, 1967, to GJERDIS DOROTHEA RAY, [redacted] Deerfield, Illinois, for instant 1962 Plymouth, purchased used October 20, 1967, from JERRY W. RYAN, [redacted] Northbrook, Illinois. Certificate of Title #B2105425 issued November 6, 1967, to RAY for this Plymouth with no lien and has not been surrendered to date.

On November 29, 1968, [redacted] Driver's License Section, Secretary of State's Office, Springfield Illinois, advised she could find nothing in her files identifiable

with GJERDIS DOROTHEA RAY. Concerning JERRY W. RYAN she furnished the following:

Address:	[redacted] Lake Forest, Illinois
Date of Birth:	July 16, 1935
Height:	5'9"
Weight:	178 pounds
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Brown
Driver's License Number:	R500-4393-5202, which expires July 16, 1971

RYAN obtained this driver's license after taking an examination on May 20, 1968, while driving a 1960 DeSoto.

On April 19, 1968, [redacted] Illinois State Board of Probation and Parole, Springfield, Illinois, advised that one JERRY WILLIAM RAY, also known as JERRY WILLIAM RYAN, white male, date of birth July 16, 1935, at Quincy, Illinois, 5'10", 170 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes, was the brother of JAMES EARL RAY.

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